enhanced lending to minority communities in the annual District Credit Plan formulated for each of these 103 districts. The instruction relating to special monitoring of credit flow to minorities in these 103 districts is contained in the letter of Government of India to the RBI dated 18.4.2007. This instruction as well as other instruction referred to above were reiterated at the meeting of the CMDs of public sector banks on 19.4.2007.

Wind energy potential in Kerala

2969. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total wind energy potential in Kerala;

(b) the details of which has already been tapped;

(c) the wind energy projects under construction and implementation in Kerala; and

(d) the action taken by Government to tap the entire wind energy potential of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A gross wind power potential of 875 MW has been estimated in the State of Kerala based on the locations having wind power density of 200 Watts per square metre or more and assuming land availability of one per cent of potential areas for wind farm projects.

(b) A demonstration wind power project of 2 MW was installed at Kanjikode in Palakkad district in the State.

(c) Presently, no wind power projects are under construction in Kerala.

(d) The Union Government promotes setting up of wind power projects in the country including in the State of Kerala through fiscal incentives such as concessional import duty for wind electricity generator sub-systems, excise duty exemption, ten years tax holiday on power projects, benefit of accelerated depreciation, besides loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Wind resource assessment studies are supported in various States for identifying new areas for deployment of

wind power projects. The State Government has issued guidelines for establishment of wind farms in private land to encourage private investment in the sector and is conducting micro surveys in potential areas to identify sites suitable for establishment of wind farms.

Tapping of non-conventional energy potential

2970. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to provide equal opportunities for tapping non-conventional energy potential in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the progress made, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) To provide equal opportunities for tapping new and renewable energy in the country, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided that include capital/ interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from income tax on profit earned from sale of power, which are applicable in all States/UTs. These apart, the Electricity Act 2003, National Electricity Policy, 2005 and National Tariff Policy, 2006 provide a common framework for the regulation of renewable power in all States/UTs. However, this Ministry's schemes relating to biogas plants, biomass gasifiers and small hydro power projects provide for a somewhat higher level of Central financial assistance for Special Category States. Further, subsidy on solar lanterns is available for unelectrified villages only in Special Category States.

(c) State-wise details of cumulative achievements throughout the country under various renewable energy programmes, as on 31.03.2007 are given in Statement.